

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1014

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Requesting the Congressional Delegation of the State of South Dakota to continue their support for the passage of the Omnibus Energy Bill.

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Energy Bill will greatly benefit the State of South Dakota, especially South Dakota's farmers and ranchers who are the number one economic contributors to the state; and

WHEREAS, this bill mandates the use of ethanol and bio-based fuels. In 2004, South Dakota is expected to produce over 340 million gallons of ethanol which will add 350 million dollars to South Dakota's economy; and

WHEREAS, by boosting ethanol production to 5 billion gallons a year, farm income could increase by more than 1 billion dollars a year and increased ethanol production could generate another 1 billion dollars or more a year in rural areas. The ten ethanol plants in South Dakota employ over 400 people and many of these plants are farmer-owned coops; and

WHEREAS, this bill expands the renewable production tax credit of 1.8 cents per Kwh to include new wind facilities. These tax credits are provided to encourage installation of residential wind energy production, which will greatly benefit the wind energy projects that are developing in our state such as the recently dedicated 40-megawatt wind farm near Highmore, South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, this bill grants tribes autonomy in developing energy resources, including renewable energy on tribal land. It also provides grants and loan guarantees to assist tribes in the energy production, conservation, and efficiency. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe recently constructed a 750 Kw wind farm on their reservation bringing needed jobs and additional income to the tribe; and

WHEREAS, this bill reauthorizes the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and increases funding to 3.4 billion dollars through 2006. Last year, the LIHEAP program provided assistance to more than 15,000 needy families in South Dakota; and

WHEREAS, it is especially important to ensure the passage of an effective energy bill. The people of South Dakota, indeed of the United States, have been waiting for a national energy policy that encourages economic development by providing affordable and reliable energy across the country and in South Dakota specifically:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-ninth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the South Dakota Legislature requests our Congressional Delegation to facilitate the passage of the Omnibus Energy Bill.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 18, 2004
February 20, 2004

Matthew Michels
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Dennis Daugaard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate